

## ROM 238 - Renew the Mind - Transform the Body - Rom 12:3-8

In the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Ch's of Rom - we saw that FAITH ALONE in Jesus Christ is the only way for us to be made RIGHT with God

in Ch's 6-8 - we learned about the incredible VICTORY we have  
Because of our POSITION in Christ - &  
Because of the POWER of the Holy Spirit living in us

In Ch's 9-11 we were given absolute CONFIDENCE  
of God's Faithfulness - His Sovereignty, & His Plan

THEN - in Rom 12:1 - we switched gears

Suddenly - all the great & incredible theology of Romans  
turned to PRACTICAL APPLICATION for our lives

In Rom 12:1 - we read the word - - THEREFORE

BECAUSE of all of these truths - -  
Here's how we are called to live

& we started with 2 messages on Being Transformed

& now today we begin to see some of the "WHAT"  
that we are Transformed "FOR"

Let's Pray

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We've **got to remember**

thru-out the remainder of our study of Romans

The 1<sup>st</sup> Two verses of **ROM Ch 12**

are the **OVERALL RESPONSE** to the 1<sup>st</sup> 11 Ch's

& **NOW** - the remainder of the teaching of Romans

is **WHAT** it should **LOOK LIKE**

when we are putting **Rom 12:1-2** into practice

So - since these Vs's are the **Foundation** of the remainder of the book

let's **read them** again - to begin today's msg

### **Rom 12:1-2 - ESV**

*1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

*2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Again - the **ONLY** way we can **APPLY** the remainder of Romans

is to **FIRST Personally Apply** these two Vs's

If we don't present our "**Selves**" as a **Living Sacrifice**

If we are not ***Transformed*** by the **Renewing of our Minds**

Then there is **NO WAY** - we'll be able to **APPLY**

the remainder of the book of Romans to our lives

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& so today, the first **APPLICATION** of Rom 12:1-2 deals with **HOW** the Body of Christ is designed to function

& to do that - this text begins  
by calling us to **THINK DIFFERENT** about ourselves

In preparing to talk about  
**HOW** the Body of Christ is meant to function

The 1<sup>st</sup> thing Paul says we must allow God to Transform  
the way **WE** - **THINK** about ourselves

### **Rom 12:3 (A) - ESV**

***3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, . . .***

1<sup>st</sup> - **Paul acknowledges** that it is only by God's Grace (gift)  
that he can even speak to every one among us

& then - The **VERY FIRST** application he makes (after Rom 12:1-2)  
is that we **MUST STOP** thinking so highly of ourselves

I love the fact that the Word of God is **Sharp** - & **Piercing**,  
& **Discerning** of the thoughts & intentions of our hearts

& here - **the Word** makes it very clear - ***I say to everyone among you - not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think***

We don't have to wonder whether God is speaking to **US** here  
**THIS** - is for **EVERY** single one of us

We must be **Transformed** to the extent that we stop  
***thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think***

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**Remember** - Paul is heading into  
*"HOW the Body of Christ functions correctly"*

**WHY** would he begin that subject by saying  
*"not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought"*

& then next - he's going to say "**IN ESSENCE**"  
*"Think according to WHERE God has placed you in the Body"*

It **seems to me** that Paul opens this text  
with these commands about how we are to think

**Because** he knows "How we think"  
greatly effects how we function in the body

**& How** each of us individually function in the body  
determines how the body functions as a whole

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So - **with that preface** - Let's read **Rom 12:3** again (entire vs)

### **Rom 12:3 - ESV**

***3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.***

Going into How the **Body functions** properly -  
The Holy Spirit says

#1) **DON'T** think of yourselves more highly than you ought

#2) **DO** think with Sober Judgment

according to the Measure of faith that God has assigned to us

The **GREEK** for "Sober Judgment" means  
in your "**RIGHT MIND**"

It also means to think **MODERATELY** of your self  
as in "*Not too highly*"

& what does - thinking ***each according to the measure of faith  
that God has assigned*** mean ?

**The measure** of faith that God has **assigned** refers to

the **specific Gift** - God has given each of us  
to function correctly in the Body of Christ

& so this Vs says - **think Soberly** - in accordance with  
**WHERE** God has placed you in the Body of Christ

**Do you SEE IT?**

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Every time someone says "***HERE'S WHAT I THINK***"  
about an area of the Body that God has NOT placed them in

***EVERYTIME that happens*** - there is a high potential  
for **Division & Discord** in the functioning of the Body

**INSTEAD** - thinking **SOBERLY**,  
***according to the measure of faith assigned*** you - is saying;

***"I don't know about that person's role in the body  
all I know is what God has called ME to do"***

Now **THAT** is **NOT**  
thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought

& **THAT IS** - thinking Soberly,  
*according to the measure of faith God has assigned to us*

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Now - we **really see** that Paul is talking about  
the **correct functioning of the body** - as we cont. in **Rom 12:4**

### **Rom 12:4 - ESV**

***4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,***

Here Paul begins the Analogy of the **HUMAN** body  
to the Body of Christ (the **CHURCH**)

& he **begins by pointing out**  
there are many members of the human body  
but they do **NOT** all have the same function

& so - if we **were to apply** this ***"thinking too highly of ourselves"***  
to the human body

It **would be like** the **EARS** saying  
*"Here's what I think the **EYES** should really do"*

or the **ARMS** saying  
*"We think **WE** should carry the body around instead of the **Legs**"*

Our **HUMAN** body is **ONE** Body - made up of many members  
but the members don't have the same function - ***RIGHT?***

**& so then - Rom 12:5 → →**

## **Rom 12:5 - ESV**

***5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.***

just like the human body - **WE**, as the Body of Christ,  
though many - are **ONE BODY** in Christ

& we are ***individually*** members of one another

**meaning** that we are all inter-connected - **AND** inter-dependent  
in order to make up one **Body of Christ**  
*just like the human body*

& man - **when this works** in the Body of Christ  
it is a miraculous sight to see !!

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**What does it take** for the Body of Christ to actually function like this?

### **It takes:**

- 1) Each of us presenting ourselves as a Living Sacrifice
- 2) Each of us having our Minds Renewed
- 3) Each of us NOT thinking too highly of ourselves
- 4) Each of us thinking **according to**  
**WHERE** we've been placed in the body

**Thank God** - that in our Human Body  
the **EARS** let the **EYES** do the seeing  
the **ARMS** let the **LEGS** carry the Body

**Otherwise** - it wouldn't be a very pretty site

**Unfortunately** - it's the same in the Body of Christ

When the **EARS** are trying to see for the **EYES**  
& the **ARMS** are trying to act like the **LEGS**

It is **NOT** a very pretty site

**But when** we all operate (as Vs. 3 says)

***"each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned"***

**THEN** the church becomes a miraculous display to the world  
of the Living Body of Jesus Christ

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But **for that to happen**

**EACH** of us must Function ***WHERE*** God has placed us

***according to the measure of faith that God has assigned us***

So - beginning in **Rom 12:6** - Paul lays out a **PARTIAL LIST**  
of the different "**measures of faith**" that God has assigned us

**But we need to make one thing clear here**

These are **not** "***ONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER***" gifts

These **are** "***ALL ARE NEEDED TO FUNCTION PROPERLY***" gifts

Paul's **continuing** the same thought

but now he goes into his **EXAMPLE LIST** of Gifts

**Rom 12:6(A) - ESV → →**

## **Rom 12:6(A) - ESV**

**6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: . . .**

In the **Human Body** each of our "members"  
differs according to God's design

But **when** they're all **doing their job**  
the Body functions perfectly

& that is the **exact same design** God has  
for the Body of Christ

**We EACH** have a gift in the Body of Christ  
& we each have been **created** to fill a specific role in the Body

But **for the Body** to function correctly  
each of us **must USE** the Gifts we've been given

**BUT** - we also must use them  
**NOT** thinking too highly of ourselves

but thinking **SOBERLY** (moderately) - in accordance with  
the **measure of faith** God has assigned to US

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So - as V.6 continues - Paul lists some **EXAMPLES** of the different "measures of faith" that God assigns

### **Let's re-read Rom 12:6 - ESV**

***6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;***

The **ESV** stays **Very Literal** here

But, *Implied* is - If you have the **gift of Prophecy**  
then **USE IT** in proportion to the gift you've been given

The gift of Prophecy is **NOT** just "Foretelling the future"

This **Gift of Prophecy** is the ability to Speak God's Word  
right into other people's lives

It's **NOT** speaking your own opinion  
it's **NOT** telling people what to do

It's speaking **the Word of God** - in such a way  
that it applies directly (& specifically) to a person's life

**& IF** that's the gift God has given **you** - then

#1) you need to be careful

#2) you need to begin functioning in that gift

***in proportion to the faith you've been given***

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**Continuing in Rom 12:7(A) - ESV → →**

## **Continuing in Rom 12:7(A) - ESV**

*(from v.6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: . . . V.7(A) if service, in our serving; . . .*

The word translated **service** here  
is translated **ministry** in the **NKJV**

**AND** - it's actually the same word we get our word **DEACON** from

**This word** refers more to serving the "**Physical**" needs of the church  
which there are a **huge ton** of

**If God** has made you to Serve  
specifically in regards to the "**Physical**" needs of the church

**Then we really need you to be Serving**

#1) cause that's what God made you to do

#2) cause that's what we need you to do

& **please believe me** when I say - we would be **HAPPY**  
to **help you** find the place that God has called you to serve

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## **Next - in Rom 12:7(B) - ESV**

*. . . the one who teaches, in his teaching;*

If God has made you to **Teach** - then Man . . . **TEACH**

Teach **Sunday School**, **Youth Group**,  
**Small Group**, or Teach **behind the Pulpit**

But **if God** has made you to teach  
then you really need to **start teaching**

But let me just **warn you**

Teaching God's Word - takes a **ton of time** - & is **no small sacrifice**

But **if that's** what God has called you to do  
then you really need to get to do it

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**Then - in Rom 12:8(A) - ESV**

***8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; . . .***

This word **EXHORT** here actually conveys primarily  
giving COMFORT & **ENCOURAGEMENT**

the **NLT** translates it - **Encouragement**

**The idea** expressed is

"To Come Along Side, to Strengthen & to Encourage"  
*much like the **Holy Spirit** does*

This is a **wonderful** & **greatly needed** gift in the church

So - If God has made you to **come alongside**  
to **Strengthen** & to **Encourage** others in the Body

please, start **USING** your gift right away - cause the church **needs you**

& By the way - there is **NO GIFT** from God  
of **Critical** or **Judgmental** Spirit

that is strictly a Gift from the **Sin Nature**, & must be crucified

But the gift of **Encouragement** - not **THAT** is a gift from God

**Continuing in Rom 12:8(B) - ESV → →**

## **Rom 12:8(B) - ESV**

*... the one who contributes, in generosity; ...*

This **isn't referring** to what we call **Tithing**  
or the regular giving of the "First" of your income

God calls us to the **regular giving** of the "First-Fruits" of our income  
as a Fundamental Part of **EVERY** Christian's Life

But **THIS "Gift of GIVING"** - is different

This person gives with **generosity**, & with **simplicity**  
This person gives with **Joy** & with **Blessing**

This is an **INCREDIBLE** gift to see in action

& If God has **given you** this gift  
I promise, you are **storing up treasures** in heaven

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## **Next in Rom 12:8(C) - ESV**

*... the one who leads, with zeal; ...*

This word "**ZEAL**" means - take it **Seriously**, be **Passionate**,  
put **everything** you've got into it

The NLT translates it like this;

*... If God has given you leadership ability,  
take the responsibility seriously. ...*

Do not be **QUICK** to take a leadership Position  
but once you do take it - Take it **Seriously**

**Lead with ZEAL** - Because God **deserves** your very best

& finally - the last Gift in **this SAMPLE list**  
for the correct **Functioning** of the Body of Christ

**Rom 12:8(D) - ESV**

*. . . the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

These are the Saints that **care for the hurting**  
when someone's in need - they want to **be there**

These are the Saints who:

**Laugh** with those who Laugh - **Weep** with those who Weep  
& **Mourn** with those who Mourn

This is a **critically needed gift**  
to reach out & comfort those who are hurting

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**SO** - there is the **SAMPLE** list - of some of the Gifts of God  
that make the **Body function** properly

& **by the way** - this is not a "**Job Qualification**" list for a Pastor  
Those qualifications are found elsewhere

This is a **SAMPLE** list of all the different gifts it takes  
for the **Body of Christ** to actually function correctly

There are actually **3 separate sets** of gifts listed in the NT  
Each list is different - & **NONE** of them are complete

**I'm considering** possibly taking the **Next Message**  
& just teaching on the Gifts, and our roles in the Body

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But **let's not forget** a very important point here

Paul is using this Partial List of the Gifts  
to **DEMONSTRATE** the point he began back in V.3

**FIRST he said** (3A)

We are NOT to think more highly of ourselves than we should

**THEN he said** (3B) - we are to think Soberly - which is  
according to the measure of faith God has Given us

**THEN he began** the EXAMPLE LIST of the various GIFTS  
that all together make up the Body of Christ

SO - this "GIFT LIST" - is actually in the context  
of us "**thinking soberly**" about ourselves

So - Let me **give you** what I think  
is the simplest (but often overlooked) **LESSON** here

If your gift is - **PROPHECY** - THINK about Speaking the Word

If your gift is - **SERVICE** - THINK about Serving others

If your gift is - **TEACHING** - THINK about Teaching

If your gift is - **ENCOURAGEMENT** - THINK about Exhortation

If your gift is - **GIVING** - THINK about Giving

If your gift is - **LEADING** - THINK about Leading

If your gift is - **MERCY** - THINK about showing Mercy to others

**THAT** - is how the Body of Christ Functions Correctly

By us all thinking **ACCORDING** to  
the measure of Faith we've been given

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**HOWEVER** - for us to *function correctly* in the Body (whatever our gift)  
There are TWO things we must **NOT** think

**#1 - We must NOT think;**

that **ANYTHING GOOD** we do for God - comes from  
our own **ingenuity**, or **merit**, or **goodness** in any way

Because THAT is thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought

**Rom 7:18** = In our "SELVES" - dwells NO THING Good

**Jn 15:5** = Apart from Christ - we can do NOTHING

**Phil 2:13** = It is God alone - Who is at work in us

& **if we ever try** to be part of the Body  
in our own Strength (Ability)

**Not only will** we fall on our face  
but we'll probably do some **damage** in the Process

**The #2 thing we must NOT think is;**

that we know better - HOW some other part of the body  
***SHOULD BE*** functioning

**The only exception is** - if you're in a **Leadership** position  
then it's your job to evaluate how the body is functioning

But if **you're not in leadership**, then please . . .

If God has made you an **EYE**

Don't think you know how to **HEAR** better than the **EARS**

if God has made us an **ARM**

it's probably best to let the **LEGS** carry the Body around

Guys - this text is about the **Body of Christ** functioning Correctly,

**& for that to happen**

- 1) Each of us must present ourselves as a **Living Sacrifice**
  - 2) Each of us must have our **Minds Renewed** by the Holy Spirit
  - 3) Each of us Must **NOT think** too highly of ourselves
  - 4) Each of us Must **think Soberly** -  
**according to** the Gift we've been given
- 

As we **prepare for communion**

Let's Pray that God would show us - what it means  
to be **part** of the Body of Christ

**& let's ask God two Questions;**

- 1) Do I know where YOU'VE made me to FIT in the Body?
- 2) Am I USING the gifts YOU'VE given me?

**Let's Pray**